Forum: ECOSOC

Question of: Worldwide guidelines for e-waste disposal and recycling

Main Submitter: Russian Federation

Co-Submitters: China, South Africa, Switzerland

Signatories: Canada, France, United Kingdom

THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE,

Realizing that there are 20 to 50 million tons of electronic waste every year,

Recognizing that all electronic scrap components may contain contaminants, such as lead, cadmium, beryllium, or brominated flame-retardants, which cause serious health and pollution problems,

Having devoted attention to NADIA electronic waste processing plant in Novi Iskar, Bulgaria as a typical example of disposal of e-waste,

Noting with deep concern that about 50 million cell phones are replaced worldwide per month, of which only 10% are recycled,

Deeply disturbed by the illegal shipments of e-waste from the United States to China fueling child labor and extreme toxic pollution, and that the United States only recycles 10-20% of the nation’s e-waste in their own country,

1. Invites all member states to join with United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), and the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) to:
2. Convene high-level global forums of experts, institutions and decision makers to raise awareness of the issue and promote partnerships
3. Discuss and review current developments and trends in the technologies and techniques of recycling e-waste, as well as lessons learned and best practices
4. Researching and experimenting with safer alternatives compared to materials hazardous to the environment
5. Seek new capacity for e-waste treatment and utilization depending on an in-depth analysis of e-waste information such as solvents, paints, batteries, and accumulators;
6. Requests the member states to regulate the disposal of the recycling e-waste such as but not limited to:
7. Providing a clear definition of e-waste in legal documents, treaties and all bylaws, including stabilization of definitions from different parts of the law and helping achieve a better understanding of e-waste
8. Carefully monitor the contamination of the soil, air, and water around e-waste disposal sites using technical experts
9. Clarifying the punishments for violation of legal waste management regulations;
10. Endorses the objective of UNIDO’S program of fostering the development of the e-waste recycling industry in developing countries with UNIDO’s support such as but not limited to:
11. Promoting an environmental service industry in developing countries
12. Preparing national e-waste assessment reports
13. Setting tangible targets and clearly defining the roles and responsibilities of each stakeholder group
14. Facilitating the establishment of local and regional e-waste dismantling and recycling facilities;
15. Recommends citizen and/or private individuals to reuse products by selling them or donating them to other people, especially computer re-use organizations, extending their useful life and keeping them out of the waste stream by ways such as but not limited to:
    1. Advertising via public media
    2. Financial support from Non-Government Organization (NGOs), the World Bank, and other relevant agencies;
16. Urges member states to consider providing tax incentives to electronics companies that take actions such as but not limited to:
    1. Inform their customers of ways in which to maximize the life-cycle of their products
    2. Provide free recycling or disposal services to customers that have purchased their products;
17. Highly recommends that member states publicize the harm of e-waste and the benefits of recycling through:
    1. Presentations at school, to make the students understand the important of this problem
    2. Paper advertisement in public places such as posters, leaflets, newspapers and magazines.